

Diet of Augsburg and its Results.

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—the Augsburg Confession—and to this confession they clung, in spite of Melancthon's pliability and ^{ff} the Confutation " of the champions of Catholic orthodoxy. Charles, of course, decided for the Confutation, and a Recess of the Catholic majority of the Diet gave the Protestants six months to surrender or take the consequences, and meanwhile ordered them to forbear further innovations.

The majority had triumphed once more, and yet again the victory lay with the minority. It was one thing to condemn the Protestants; it was another thing to overcome them. Not only were the Catholic princes, with one or two exceptions, not prepared to draw the sword on behalf of their faith; the chief of them, Duke Ludwig of Bavaria, was jealous of the Habsburg power, was as hostile as the Elector of Saxony to the proposal to make Charles' brother Ferdinand King of the Romans, and was intriguing for political purposes with the elector and the landgrave. Charles had neither men nor money to enforce the will of this unreliable majority, and his international relations once more precluded a policy of repression. He had now to reckon with the enmity of Henry of England, whom the question of the divorce from his aunt, Queen Catherine, had made a possible protector of the Protestant cause, not only in England but in Germany. Francis, too, could not be trusted, and was busy plotting mischief with Henry at his expense, was in fact ready on occasion to belie his orthodoxy by intriguing with the German heretics and even with the Sultan Soliman himself, who was threatening not only the empire but Christianity with ruin.

The Protestants were, moreover, determined to fight, if need be, for their faith; and even Luther, under stress of necessity, now threw his slavish doctrine of passive resistance, as against an anti-Protestant emperor or prince, to the winds. Up to the Diet of Augsburg he had strenuously set his face against even the defensive combination of the Protestant princes, such as the Landgrave Philip had been striving to engineer. The practical, strong-minded landgrave had long

foreseen the necessity of organised, active
resistance, and had
laboured to bring about a working compromise
between
Luther and Zwingli in order to unite the
Protestant forces
against the common foe. Such a compromise as
he tried to
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